



Da Vinci Schools

Minutes

Da Vinci Schools Regular Board Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday November 29, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Da Vinci Schools ("DV") welcomes your participation at its Board meetings. The purpose of a public meeting of the Board of Directors ("Board") is to conduct the affairs of DV in public. Your participation assures us of continuing community interest in our schools. To assist you in speaking/participating in our meetings, the following guidelines are provided:

1. Teleconferencing will be conducted through Zoom. Join Zoom meeting at <https://zoom.us/j/96503437352>, Meeting ID: 965 0343 7352, or dial (669) 900-6833.
 2. Agendas are available to all audience members on the Da Vinci Schools website at www.davincischools.org.
 3. Audience members who wish may speak on any agenda items or under the general category of "Public Comments," which is time set aside for members of the audience to raise issues not specifically on the agenda. However, due to public meeting laws, the Board can only listen to your issue, not respond or take action. These presentations are limited to three (3) minutes each and total time allotted to non-agenda items will not exceed fifteen (15) minutes. Non-English speakers who use a translator shall have six (6) minutes in which to address the Board.
 4. The Board may give direction to staff to respond to your concern or you may be offered the option of returning with a citizen-requested item.
 5. The chair will recognize such individuals who wish to speak on a specific agenda item at the appropriate time. When addressing the Board, speakers are requested to adhere to the time limits set forth, and to not repeat remarks made by those who preceded them.
 6. Any public records relating to an agenda item for an open session of the Board which are distributed to all, or a majority of all, of the Board members shall be available for public
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inspection at 201 N. Douglas Street, El Segundo, CA 90245, during Business Office operating hours. Please contact the CEO's office at 310-725-5800.

The agenda and documents in the agenda packet will be made available, if requested, in appropriate alternative formats to any person with a disability as required by the ADA, 42 USC section 12132, and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. To request a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, you must contact the CEO's office at 310-725-5800 at least 48 hours before a regular meeting, and at least 12 hours before a special meeting. (Government Code § 54954.2(a)(1).)

Trustees Present

B. Meath (remote), D. Boston (remote), D. Brann, J. Webber (remote), L. Heimov (remote), R. Ochoa (remote), R. Santiago

Trustees Absent

None

Trustees who arrived after the meeting opened

B. Meath

Guests Present

A. Johnson (remote), A. Wohlwerth (remote), Alvin Liu (remote), Amelia Griffin (remote), C. Levenson (remote), Daniela Torres (remote), Emma Enriquez (remote), Emma Hattne (remote), G. Long (remote), J. Hawn, L. Rodriguez (remote), Leilani Pineda (remote), M. Amato (remote), M. Denniston (remote), M. Rainey (remote), M. Wunder, Milissa Sutton (remote), Olivia Griffin (remote), Pamela Li (remote), Quinn Schell (remote), R. Stoll (remote), Sam Renteria (remote), Saya Wai (remote), Violet Pena-Gomez (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

D. Brann called a meeting of the board of trustees of Da Vinci Schools to order on Tuesday Nov 29, 2022 at 6:02 PM.

B. Record Attendance and Guests

C. Special Board Action: Approve and Adopt Board Resolution for Teleconference Board Meetings Pursuant to Special Rules in Government Code Section 54953(e)

J. Webber made a motion to approve.

R. Santiago seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

D. Boston Aye
D. Brann Aye
R. Ochoa Aye
B. Meath Absent
J. Webber Aye
R. Santiago Aye
L. Heimov Aye

D. Approval of Agenda

J. Webber made a motion to approve.
L. Heimov seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

B. Meath Absent
J. Webber Aye
D. Boston Aye
R. Ochoa Aye
L. Heimov Aye
R. Santiago Aye
D. Brann Aye
B. Meath arrived at 6:04 PM.

E. Public Comments

Robert and Annie Wong made a public comment inquiring about the Da Vinci Schools policy on verbal abuse of students. Dr. Brann asked staff to respond to the request in the next few business days.

II. Information

A. From the Board

Mr. Ochoa, Mr. Meath, and Mr. Boston wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Dr. Brann thanked everyone for their service to students, and wished everyone happy holidays. He went on to share the percentage of female students (47%) at Da Vinci Science, and challenged staff to increase the percentage to 50%.

He also spoke of an exhibit at the Western Museum of Flight at Zamperini Field in Torrance. The exhibit, which opens on Friday, December 2, showcases women in aviation. Dr. Steve Wallis will join Dr. Brann at the museum's Media Day event on Friday, and Ms. Crissel Rodriguez hopes to arrange internships for Da Vinci students there.

B. Working Groups' Updates

Mr. Santiago reported that he had reached out to the Wiseburn board members; he anticipates being able to meet soon.

Mr. Meath commented that the Facilities & Finance working group meeting had to be cancelled due to work commitments, and the Governance group meeting had to be cancelled due to illness. He anticipates being able to meet in January at the latest.

C. From the CEO/Superintendent

Dr. Wunder spoke of having met with past Da Vinci Schools Board President Chet Pipkin, who along with his wife Jan has provided significant financial support to expand Da Vinci's programs, and offered students career-connect learning opportunities at Belkin.

Dr. Brann added that Chet Pipkin was a founder of Da Vinci Schools and president of its board for about 10 years.

D. From the COO/Deputy Superintendent

Dr. Hawn commented on the proposed agenda items for the 5% staff salary increase and keeping the staff share of health insurance costs flat for 2023.

Pursuant to Dr. Brann's comments, she shared that women make up only about 27% of the STEM workforce, and that she and Da Vinci Schools are committed to gender equity.

Dr. Wunder thanked Mr. Amato and Dr. Hawn for their work on the salary increase, and added that most Da Vinci employees will see a 10-11% year over year increase overall if the board approves the agenda items.

E. Student Board Member Update

Coordinator Emma Enriquez shared that the cross-site WinterFest would be held on December 3, and the CARnival event will once again be held in the Spring.

Violet Pena-Gomez gave the Da Vinci Science update, speaking about Exhibition Night, the Youth & Government Conference, and Robotics' Beach Blitz competition. Students also made Gratitude Baskets for faculty and staff.

Olivia Griffin, of Da Vinci Communications, spoke about LAX and Northrop Grumman exploratory career events and Exhibition Night, which gives students the chance to creatively showcase their work.

Leilani Pineda gave the Da Vinci Design update, sharing that the Design students held a cardboard boat regatta in the pool, put on a successful Exhibition Night, and attended the cross-site LAX aviation career field trip.

Milissa Sutton, Connect High School student, shared that students hosted a Breast Cancer Awareness speaker and held a hygiene drive for Lava Mae, a nonprofit that turns buses into shower facilities for the homeless. She also shared each grade level's Exhibition night interdisciplinary work.

Quinn Schell gave the update on Connect K-8, noting the Fall Festival which showcased Día de los Muertos and Diwali, the advent of the Morning Running Club, the Garden Club, and 8th Grade Info Night, where students tour all four Da Vinci high schools.

F. Financial Q & A

Dr. Brann inquired about the status of the ERC credit. Mr. Amato shared that the application was filed with the IRS on October 2. It could take up to six months to hear back from the IRS; there is no website or contact office to check the status. Da Vinci's application is for about \$3.5M. Mr. Amato recommends that the funds, if granted, be held for two and three years after the IRS audits whether or not the schools correctly applied for the credit.

Mr. Amato noted that the December 14 report to the Board will include the First Interims, October financials, and 2022-23 budget projection revisions.

G. Facilities Update

Mr. Bravo spoke of the soccer field Division of State Architects process.

The CTE Studio is proceeding well. The DSA Office has completed reviewing the Cooling Tower project and approval is imminent. The Cooling Towers have been built; the hope is that they can be installed during Winter or Spring Break.

Dr. Wunder commented that Chet and Jan Pipkin and Cindy and John Smet have contributed funds to pay for the first of two vans to shuttle students between Da Vinci sites and take athletes and work interns to some events. Brief discussion on legal and insurance ramifications ensued.

Mr. Bravo noted that the café is physically complete, and final logistics of staffing and supplies are being wrapped up. Chartwells has been a fantastic partner in this project.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes of the October 26, 2022 Da Vinci Schools Regular Board Meeting

R. Santiago made a motion to approve the minutes from Da Vinci Schools Regular Board Meeting on 10-26-22.

J. Webber seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

D. Boston Aye
R. Ochoa Aye
D. Brann Aye
B. Meath Aye
R. Santiago Aye
J. Webber Aye
L. Heimov Aye

IV. Consent Agenda

A. Accept Da Vinci Schools Payment Register - October 2022

R. Santiago made a motion to accept the Da Vinci Schools October 2022 Payment Register.

L. Heimov seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

D. Boston Aye
R. Santiago Aye
L. Heimov Aye
D. Brann Aye
R. Ochoa Aye
B. Meath Aye
J. Webber Aye

B. Approve 2022-23 Master Contract with The Help Group - Village Glen for Special Education Services

R. Santiago made a motion to approve the 2022-23 Master Contract with The Help Group - Village Glen for Special Education Services.

L. Heimov seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

R. Ochoa Aye
R. Santiago Aye
L. Heimov Aye
J. Webber Aye
B. Meath Aye
D. Brann Aye
D. Boston Aye

C. Approve 2022-23 Beach Cities Learning Center Master Contract for Special Education Services

R. Santiago made a motion to approve the 2022-23 Beach Cities Learning Center Master Contract for Special Education Services.

L. Heimov seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

R. Ochoa Aye

J. Webber Aye

D. Brann Aye

R. Santiago Aye

B. Meath Aye

D. Boston Aye

L. Heimov Aye

D. Approve 2023 Health Benefits Rates

R. Santiago made a motion to approve the 2023 Health Benefits Rates.

L. Heimov seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

B. Meath Aye

J. Webber Aye

R. Ochoa Aye

D. Brann Aye

R. Santiago Aye

L. Heimov Aye

D. Boston Aye

E. Approve 2023 Employee Health Benefit Rate at No Increase to Employees

R. Santiago made a motion to approve the 2023 Employee Health Benefit Rate at No Increase to Employees.

L. Heimov seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

F. Approve 5% Employee Salary Increase for 2022-23

R. Santiago made a motion to approve a 5% Employee Salary Increase for 2022-23.

L. Heimov seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

R. Ochoa Aye

R. Santiago Aye

D. Boston Aye

D. Brann Aye

J. Webber Aye

B. Meath Aye

Roll Call

L. Heimov Aye

V. Action Item

A. Approve Recommendation for Salary Increase for Chief Financial Officer

B. Meath made a motion to approve.

L. Heimov seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

J. Webber Aye

D. Boston Aye

R. Santiago Aye

D. Brann Aye

R. Ochoa Aye

B. Meath Aye

L. Heimov Aye

B. Approve Recommendation for Salary Increase for Chief Administrative Officer/Assistant Superintendent

J. Webber made a motion to approve.

R. Santiago seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

B. Meath Aye

L. Heimov Aye

J. Webber Aye

D. Brann Aye

R. Santiago Aye

R. Ochoa Aye

D. Boston Aye

VI. Closed Session

A. Conference with Legal Counsel

Closed Session entered at 7:01 p.m.

VII. Closing Items

A. Reconvene for Public Session & Closed Session Reporting

Public Session reconvened at 8:18 p.m.

Dr. Brann reported that no action had been taken in Closed Session.

B.

Adjourn Meeting

R. Santiago made a motion to adjourn.

L. Heimov seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

L. Heimov Aye

R. Santiago Aye

B. Meath Aye

R. Ochoa Aye

D. Boston Aye

J. Webber Aye

D. Brann Aye

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:19 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A. Wohlwerth

Next Regular Da Vinci Schools Board meeting: December 14, 2022